

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 235 - SB 292**

February 10, 2013

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes the coroner or county medical examiner to direct the cremation of an unclaimed dead body. Requires a DNA sample of each cremated individual to be taken prior to cremation and stored by the coroner or medical examiner for purposes of identification at a later date.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

**Assumptions:**

- Under current law, burial is the only authorized method for disposal of an unclaimed body.
- According to a 2011 limited survey of Davidson County funeral homes, any decrease in expenditures realized, should a coroner or county medical examiner choose to cremate an unclaimed dead body, will not be significant.
- Based on information provided by the Comptroller of the Treasury in 2011, any estimated decrease in local government expenditures experienced as the result of a coroner or county medical examiner choosing to cremate the remains of an unclaimed dead body will be not significant.
- A buccal swab kit used for collecting a DNA sample costs approximately \$20. The cost to analyze the sample would be significantly more; however, given the low estimate for number of individuals who will be cremated, such cost is estimated to be not significant.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jdb

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